

been found so unfit for occupation, that her Majesty has directed the porter to vacate it until it has been sufficiently altered to ensure his health and comfort.

Culham (Oxford).—The foundation-stone of the Oxford Diocesan Training School, for the education of teachers, was laid on Wednesday week, by the Bishop of Oxford, at Culham, about a mile and a half south-east of Abingdon. The building will be in the style of the fourteenth century, and will stand on three sides of a quadrangle, with a frontage 226 feet long. About a hundred dormitories will be provided. The cost will be about 12,000*l.*, at least 2,000*l.* of which is still to be raised.

Hatcham.—The foundation-stone of the Hatcham National and Infant Schools was laid on Tuesday in last week, by the Earl of Shaftesbury. The site is on a part of the ground known as formerly Mr. Cormack's nursery, and near the Royal Naval School. Out of 6,000*l.*, the estimated cost of the intended new church, not more than 300*l.* are required to make up that sum.

Southampton.—The site approved of by the Government Inspector of Prisons for the new goal is the late Mr. Maddison's property, Castle-square, the price being 4,000*l.* for the house and an acre of ground. The sanction of the council to the purchase was to be asked for on Monday last. As to the widening of Bridge-street, a local paper says,—"A snake-like model of Bridge-street upon the curved plan is exhibited at the Audit House, and a most ridiculous abortion it appears."

St. Albans.—The church of St. Albans, which has lately undergone extensive external and internal reparation, was re-opened for Divine Worship on Monday week. The exterior has been renovated, and the north aisle rebuilt, and carried out to its due length, a portion of the small graveyard being taken in for that purpose. The eastern wall, which was composed of decayed brick, has been taken down and replaced by one of stone, in which is a three-light window. A bell-turret supercedes the old wooden tower. As regards the interior, it has been paved nearly throughout with encaustic tiles (at the cost of a friend), and repewed. Some of these tiles have also been placed in the wall at the back of the communion table. The cost of the reparation, in the estimate sent to the Church Building Society, was set down as 341*l.*; but in carrying out the work some additional expenses for extras were incurred, so that the total cost approaches nearly 400*l.* The repairs have been executed under the direction of Mr. Perkins, architect, who, we understand, gave his services gratuitously.

Lydbrook (Forest of Dean).—The new church here, built after the design and plans of Mr. Woodyer, of Guildford, architect, designer of the church at Highnam, is now completed. The church is a very spacious fabric, situated in a picturesque valley on the borders of East and West Dean, and in the parishes of English Bicknor and Ruardean, and a detached portion of the parish of Newland, and contiguous to the iron mines of Messrs. Halliway, Partridge, and Co., Messrs. Russell, and others, and also to a number of coal pits.

Cirencester.—The new church at Watermoor (chapel of ease to Cirencester) was consecrated on Thursday in last week. The church is situate about half a mile from the town. It is surrounded by a burial-ground, planted here and there with evergreens. The tower is low, but it is intended hereafter to surmount it with a spire. The architect is Mr. G. Scott. The church is in the Early English style—simple in its details. The interior consists of nave and chancel. The latter contains some stained glass windows. The roof of the chancel is groined, painted, and gilded; and there are the usual sedilia, together with a stone pulpit and oak reading-desk. The seats are all open, and there are 430 sittings, of which 309 are free, including 95 for children. The proposition for erecting this new church, says the *Gloucester Chronicle*, was set on foot by the Rev. W. F. Powell, vicar, of Cirencester, who contributed a large sum towards the object. Earl Bathurst also liberally presented the ground, and added a money gift of 300*l.* Mr. Mullings, M.P. for

the borough, gave 250*l.*; and among the other liberal donors were the late Mr. D. Rowly, of Cirencester, 200*l.*, and Mr. Robert Croome and his sister, Miss Croome, 1,000*l.*

Swindon.—The new church here has been consecrated. It is in the Decorated style of architecture, and is capable of seating nearly 1,000 persons. It is intended to be substituted for the old parish church, which is too small for the increased and increasing population of the place, and is in a decayed state of repair. The new church is said to have cost at least 6,000*l.*, a very large portion of which has been raised by the voluntary contributions of the parishioners.

Manchester.—A correspondent of the *Manchester Courier* recommends the erection of a separate cathedral rather than the conversion of the Collegiate Church into one. He advocates at the same time, however, the restoration of the latter. Her Majesty, he thinks, ought to be invited to lay the foundation-stone of a new cathedral to rival St. Paul's, rather than that of a mere chapel as proposed in connection with the Collegiate Church.

Boston Spa.—St. Mary's church, having been enlarged, was reopened on the 2nd inst. The enlargement consists of new north gallery and a side aisle, containing, together, 192 seats; also near the pulpit seats for the aged and infirm. The porch and windows have been remodelled, and trefoiled lights introduced, with a little stained glass in the upper part. The new chancel consists of a three-light window with plain stone dressings and plain glass. In the west gallery an organ (made by Mr. Haunton, of York) has been placed.

Morecambe.—This is the name given to a new town in course of establishment for sea-bathing quarters, near Poulton, on the Lancashire coast. The land between Poulton and the southern part of the new foundation, including the Polygon, and which belongs to the North-Western Railway Company, is almost all taken up for building lots. Water will probably be brought along the railway from high-level springs about eight miles off; and the local board of health for Poulton, Bare, and Torrisholme township is interested in the sanitary arrangements.

Glasgow.—The site fixed upon for Marochetti's equestrian statue of the Queen is said to be St. Vincent's-place, fronting Buchanan-street. Marochetti's objection to St. Enoch-square, according to the *North British Mail*, is, that as the statue would in that situation have to face the north, the features would be generally in shadow. The artist has undertaken to complete his task in 18 months, and the cost, it is said will not exceed 4,000*l.*

Cardiff.—An inquiry has just been made before the deputy-sheriff and a jury, as to the value of a piece of corporation land near the South Wales Railway Station in St. Mary's-street, which the railway company require to form a convenient approach to the station. The ground in question is about 1,830 square yards: the depth averages 163 feet, having a river frontage of 130 feet. To show the increasing value of land here:—in the year 1816 this was let on a lease of 42 years, at a rent of 5*l.* 5*s.* per ann., and ultimately to Messrs. Bachelor, on lease, which expires in May, 1859, for the sum of 85*l.* per annum. They are to receive 1,200*l.* as compensation for their lease. Fourteen witnesses were called by the corporation, and their estimates of the value generally agreed, being about 175*l.* per annum. The value of the reversion was 2,487*l.*; but under a compulsory sale, they considered that it was fairly worth 3,108*l.* Eleven witnesses were called by the South Wales Railway Company. The estimated value by the company's general valuer was—

100 feet frontage for houses, deducting 15 feet for three passages, to let at 6 <i>d.</i> per yard, with a yard at the back	245 10 0
Present value, at 25 years' purchase	1,137 10 0
Reversion of 7 years' lease	886 15 0
The sum awarded by the jury was 965 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i> , and no compensation for damages, being 130 <i>l.</i> less than the sum originally offered by the company.	

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.

APPLICATION is to be made to Parliament in the next session for an Act for widening and improving the north end of Dowgate-hill; for widening and improving Threadneedle-street, opposite Old Broad-street; and for widening and improving the south-east corner of Mark-lane, and the north side of Great Tower-street adjoining. Application is to be made in the next session of Parliament for powers to enable the Woods and Forests to convert Kensington-common, and the two pieces of vacant land on the east and west of it, into an ornamental park, to be open to the public. Notice has been given by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests that they are about to form a new street from the end of Lower Sloane-street to the north end of the Chelsea Suspension-bridge, to afford the public a direct access to Battersea-park, now in course of formation; and also an embankment along the north side of the Thames, from Vauxhall-bridge to Chelsea Hospital. The proposed temporary bridge at Westminster is abandoned, and a permanent bridge is to be constructed on the north or lower side of the existing bridge, from the penny steamboat pier to the opposite stairs.

At Buckingham Palace and Piccadilly, by the time her Majesty comes to reside at Buckingham Palace, for the winter season, a vast alteration and improvement will have been effected. All the houses, commencing from the White Horse, in Stafford-row, to the Gun Tavern have been removed, and a new line of road made. Mr. Charles Pearson has brought before the corporation a plan for improving the City of London, "by widening the intended new street from Farringdon-street to Clerkenwell, by raising it on a level with the high ground of the adjacent streets, and extending it to King's-cross, by constructing a trunk railroad in a well-lighted and ventilated subway under the surface of the street, connecting the northern railroads and northern suburbs of the metropolis with termini in Farringdon-street and the new street; by lifting Holborn-way 17 feet, nearly on a level with Holborn-hill and Snow-hill; and by removing the wholesale meat and vegetable markets, and the railway carriers' receiving-houses, from their present confined and inconvenient situations, to spacious sites in the new street.

GAS AND WATER SUPPLY.

London.—The reiterated assurance by interested parties that the cheap gas would yield no dividend, has just been belied by the announcement of a dividend of seven-and-a-half per cent. per annum on the part of the Great Central Gas Company, with an assurance "that ten per cent. on all the capital paid will be returned to the shareholders before the company is eighteen months older." The reduction of price has already led to an increase of consumption, in the city, since the commencement of this undertaking, from 450,000,000 cubic feet to 750,000,000. The mains, too, are only now completed.

Leighton-Buzzard.—A meeting of almost all the influential residents has been held, in order to adopt measures for the reduction of the price of gas from its present exorbitant rate of 10*s.* per 1,000 cubic feet. It was unanimously resolved "That a reduction in the price of gas to 7*s.* per 1,000 cubic feet would be of great advantage to the consumers, without injury to Mr. Brothers (the manufacturer), as it is believed a great increase would take place in the consumption, and other parties who do not at present consume gas would be induced to do so."

Sawdgate.—This place has been lighted with gas from Hythe. The price, it is said, is to be 10*s.* per 1,000 feet, for three years. The gas company also furnish meters and fittings at 7*d.* per light per quarter.

Poole.—A correspondent of the *Poole Herald* calls attention to the impure state of the gas in this town, and the very inefficient and slovenly way in which the repair of pipes, metres, &c. by the company's servants is conducted. As to the quality, he says that besides an abominable odour and feeble light, the burners are continually eaten into holes, and